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German Democratic Republic

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(3pp; German; [redacted])

This document consists of two parts; both are concerned with the VVB LEW (Federation of People-Owned Enterprises for Locomotive Construction and Electrical Goods) in Hennigsdorf.

A. The first part, undated, two pages, reports the following: Reparation deliveries, particularly of electric locomotives, have been reduced. The plant is now making aximeter housings, a device that actuates rudders on large ships. Up to the present 380 units have been made. Also 166 (83 pairs) of water condensor covers were made. These covers weigh 175 kilograms each and have a wall thickness of 40 mm.

In conjunction with RFT (Radio and Telecommunications) and GEMA (Equipment, Machines, Apparatus), both of Berlin, LEW is making mobile high frequency telephone equipment. Transmitter, amplifier, and transformer are mounted on trucks and trailers; when a local power network is available a station consists of one special truck and two trailers; when no local power network is available a station consists of two special trucks with two trailers each and an equipment truck with two trailers. The special trucks used are 4-wheel drive Tatra (Czechoslovakia); the equipment trucks are of German manufacture. Five or six stations monthly are being built.

B. The second part is a report of one page, dated 3 November 1951, stating that the cut-back in reparation deliveries permits the plant to take up some new lines of production, such as electric rivet-heaters, welding transformers, butt-, spot-, and seam-welding machines, and atomic hydrogen welding equipment. Twelve sets of the latter equipment have been ordered and five sets of the order have already been delivered. The atomic hydrogen welding method, although it is expensive, has been found best for work on aluminum and its alloys.

On 15 October 1951 there were 6,380 workers at LEW including 560 men from the building trades who are carrying out repairs and new construction projects at the plant. When the construction work is complete it is planned to increase the number of workers to 12,000.

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